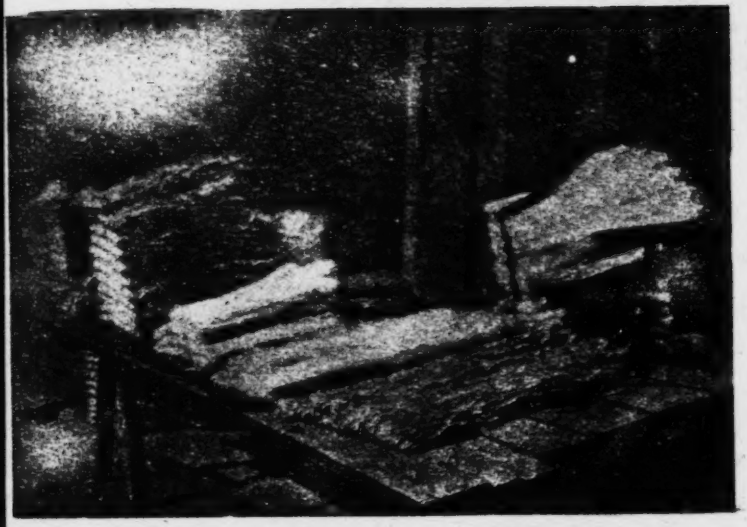
GRAIN

291

252



DRIED NOODLES

[p. 4 (e)]

5: Tax E-5 (1926-1927) 1928 AF12 North China AF12

262 sufficient food, but it should be remarked that the food prepared and cooked at home is much less expensive and usually costs only half the price that is paid for ready-made meals sold abroad.

The second part of the table shows the number and percentage of families actually purchasing various foods and also the average quantity bought and average amount spent per family making purchases. In will be seen that certain kinds of food, viz. millet, corn flour, millet flour, wheat flour, cabbage, salted turnips, spinach, beancurd, onions, sesamum oil, salt, soy-paste, vinegar, and mutton, being consumed by all the families without exception, constitute what may be called the standard diet of the families studied. Of the cereals, corn flour leads all the rest both in quantity and in expenditure, while millet flour comes easily the second. Both these principal cereals are supplemented by rice, buckwheat and *kaoliang*. The first mentioned article, while not quite palatable to the taste of northern Chinese and also comparatively more costly, is used only occasionally and sparingly for making porridge. In the vegetable group, cabbage, salted turnips, spinach, beancurd and onions are universally used. Of these, salted turnips in conjunction with other pickles in the list serve as appetizers and beancurd, a manufactured legume product having various kinds of make, may perhaps be considered a national food, as it is consumed all over China. The wide use of such odoriferous and pungent articles as onions, garlic and allium adorum may be accounted for by the fact that they are excellent appetizers for the poorer classes, as they cannot afford to consume meat and other delicacies except once in a long while.

[262] Sesamum oil is used in north China chiefly to cook food with, or to make fry, while salt and vinegar are all condiments [263] indispensable in preparing dishes. Soy-paste, a tasteful condiment somewhat similar to the Japanese *miso*, is greatly liked as a relish by the Peking people, hence its wide use. One may notice that the salt figures that appeared in the average expenditure columns are only second to those for sesamum oil. The

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

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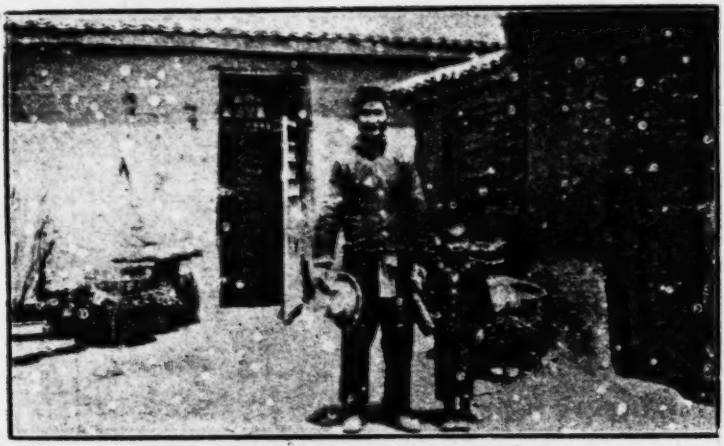

STARTING FOR A STROLL

353

TABLE DECORATIONS
IN A
WORKER'S HOME

252

THE KITCHEN STOVE ATTACHED TO THE KANG

[FACING p. 69]

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

on the part of the factory. It is hoped that when the new dormitory is completed, the workers might find a better environment to live in.

Food, Fuel and Light.—As far as possible, every facility is accorded by the factory to its workers, in order to make their living comfortable. A few of these facilities may now be mentioned. There is an artesian well drilled by the factory and fresh water from the well is distributed free to the various residential quarters of the workers. Stoves and coal that are needed in the worker's quarters in the winter are also provided by the factory. For meals, workers have the option of using the dining room of the Chiu Ta dormitory or doing their own cooking. In the former case tickets for buying meals are advanced to the workers, the value of which is deducted from their pay at the end of the month. In the latter case, stoves, coal and other cooking facilities are furnished. A third alternative adopted by some workers is to form a group whose members agree to have their meals provided by a special cook. In this case, both the cooking service and coal for the fire are provided free by the factory. There were at the time of the investigation two groups of this kind in existence. The one in Residence B consisted of about thirty members, each of whom paid about $6.50 a month for food. The kitchen service was supervised by the workers who served in groups of two by rotation. In Residence C, about twenty workers formed a group and each paid about $5.50 a month for food. A committee composed of the representatives of all the rooms in the residence supervised the kitchen service, but, in fact, the work was delegated to its chairman alone.

Sanitary Conditions.—As the Factory Hospital is a cooperative enterprise of Chiu Ta and the Pacific Alkali Works, workers belonging to the latter are, therefore, accorded the same treatment in the hospital as those of the former. Facilities for haircutting and bathing are also afforded the Pacific workers at the Chiu Ta barber shop and bath room. Arrangement has been made by the factory with a bath house in the town where the Pacific workers may take baths at regular intervals, free of charge. The bath is regularly frequented by them.